

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 062751

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAVANA 0636 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA
MOGADISCIO MOSCOW MAR 10.
QUOTE S E C R E T HAVANA 0636

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: H3N PINT SO CU

SUBJ: SOMALI WITHDRAWAL FROM OGADEN

REF: STATE 61122

A1. FONMIN MALMIERCA DEPARTED ON AFRICAN TRIP TODAY MARCH 9.
ACTING FONMIN TORRAS RECEIVED ME AT 6:30 PM.. FORTY-FIVE MINUTES
AFTER WE RECEIVED REFTEL. R RELAYD SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL POINT
BY POINT, AFTER WHICH HE ACCURATELY RECAPITULATED IT ALTHOUGH
HE DID NOT TAKE WRITTEN NOTES. HE ASSURED ME THAT HE WOULD PASS
THE MESSAGE TO HIGHER AUTHORITY.

2. WHILE NOT PURPORTING TO RESPOND DEFINITELY TO OUR DEMARCHE,
TORRAS OFFERED FOLLOWING PERSONAL COMMENTS:

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A. DECISIONS ON OUR PROPOSALS WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN BY ETHIOPIAN
GOVERNMENT ITSELF, NOT CUBA.

B. GIVEN THE BLATANT NATURE OF SOMALI AGGRESSION IN OGADEN AND
FAILURE OF OTHER POWERS (READ U.S.) TO TAKE AS ENERGETIC A
POSUTRE AGAINST IT AT OUTSET AS THEY ARE TAKING NOW, IT MAY BE

DIFFICULT FOR ETHIOPIANS TO ACCEPT CEASEFIRE AND PRESENCE OF
NEUTRAL OBSERVORS AT THIS LATE DATE.

C. IN ANY CASE, ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY GIVEN PUBLIC
ASSURANCES THAT IT WILL NOT CROSS SOMALI FRONTIER AND THAT IT
WILL NOT PERMIT MISTREATMENT OF OGADEN POPULATION.

D. WITH RESPECT TO CONTINUED CUBAN MILITARY PRESENCE, THIS ALSO
WILL DEPEND ON WISHES OF ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH, IN VIEW OF
OTHER THREATS TO ITS SECURITY (WE MENTIONED KENYA BUT NOT
ERITREA) AND CONTINUED NEED TO TRAIN ITS FORCES, MAY WISH TO
RETAIN CUBAN FORCES EVEN AFTER OGADEN IS SECURED.

3. I OF COURSE URGED ON TORRAS THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR PROPOSALS
IN THE INTERESTS OF SECURITY A NEGOTIATED AND LASTING SOLUTION
TO THE PROBLEM, AND REPEATED THAT WE HOPED CUBA WOULD SUPPORT
THEM. TORRAS WOULD MAKE NO OTHER COMMENT.

4. I ALSO ALLUDED TO THE AFP REPORT OF MALMERCA'S TRIP TO
ETHIOPIA, AND SUGGESTED THAT HE WOULD BE IN AN EXCELLENT
POSITION TO TAKE UP OUR PROPOSALS THERE. TORRAS SAID THAT IT WAS
NOT YET SURE THAT THE MINISTER WOULD BE VISITING ETHIOPIA ON HIS
AFRICAN TRIP, BUT THAT I COULD BE SURE THAT OUR DEMARCHE WOULD
BE COMMUNICATED TO HIM.

5. COMMENT: WHILE I HAVE DOUBTS THAT CUBANS WILL SUPPORT OUR
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PROPOSALS ENTHUSIASTICALLY IF AT ALL, I BELIEVE THAT IT WAS
WISE TO APPROACH THEM. IF OUR PAST DECISION TO OPEN A DIRECT
DIALOGUE ON ISSUES BETWEEN US IS TO HAVE ANY MEANING, WE MUST AT
LEAST PLAY OUR PART. WE NOW AT LEAST HAVE SOME STANDING TO FOLLOW
UP WITH GOC. LATER IF EVOLVING SITUATION WARRANTS.
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